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ABSTRACT

This yearbook volume is devoted to the theme of literacy. By analyzing the present situation and the quantitative evolution of literacy and illiteracy in the world and by examining efforts to expand schooling and the provision of adult education, this volume studies the origins of illiteracy and the factors that encourage its reduction or its spread. Also examined is educational quality, the socioeconomic conditions in which it operates and evolves, educational policies, and resources. A study of global and regional trends, including some short case studies drawn from national experiences answer the question of what, in quantitative terms, the eradication or reduction of illiteracy represents on a world scale or for different groups of countries, and what rates of improvement education should adopt to reach these targets. The six chapters cover the following topics: (1) literacy priorities; (2) literacy and illiteracy in the world--situation and trends; (3) primary education--achievements, problems, and trends; (4) toward a greater priority for adult literacy; (5) the problem of illiteracy in developed countries; functional illiteracy; and (6) international cooperation and the objective of education for all. Three tables and 190 notes and references are included. (NLA)

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